

Parks and Recreation
Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2021

Call to Order: 7:30pm

Members Present: Bob O'Shea, Keith Bilafer, Michelle Lauria, Doug Thorton, Mark Morin

Audience: Abigail Besse, Todd Currie, Roger Cameron, Kara Minar, Michael Killian, Orla Baxter, Connor Dolan, Tracy Kraus, Ben Urghart, Morey Kraus, Ellen Sachs Leicher, Anthony Slavin

May 24th Minutes to approve (02:18) – Keith motioned to approve; Michelle seconded. Minutes approved 4 - 0

Public Communications: (02:45)

- Sub-committee Chair(s) –Not in attendance
- Liaison Communication

Abigail Besse (School Committee) – Asked about the giant pile of dirt at Ann Lees and the outfield at Ann Lees. North Turf will remove the pile of dirt when they are finished with the infields in town. We never received confirmation as to whether the outfield was seeded after the fertilizer/weed killer took care of the crab grass. Parks & Rec will ask DPW to seed Ann Lees in the fall.

Kara Minar (Select Board) – Nothing to report

- General Public (13:10)

Concerns from the public about making use of lot 8 for a Pump Track. Concerns ranged from how to get an ambulance to the site, to the specificity of usage, to the longevity of the usage of the Pump Track, to nesting owls, to a water source to maintain the pump track, to how trash would be handled, to kids congregating at night, to people parking on the private Whitman Road, to endangered species and old forest, to carbon sequestration and to runoff into the pond. There were many suggestions about finding other locations in town that were better than this site, although none are under Parks & Rec jurisdiction.

Pump Track Status/Implementation (33:38) – Roger presented proposed Harvard Pump Track & Trail Rules and Construction Considerations

Michelle asked who was going to monitor that the rules were followed. Roger mentioned that there's no Pump Track lifeguard. Michelle asked them to think about that and what happens when people go on it when the conditions are wet, like they do when our fields are closed. Requested a formalized plan.

Doesn't need a water source to maintain the Pump Track.

The Pump Track is bringing in soil to lay on top of the forest and shouldn't affect the soil underneath. If it has to be dismantled, the soil can be spread out and the undergrowth can be allowed to grow.

Regular maintenance is going to be volunteer based, not expected from Parks & Rec. Might want to have some sort of Covenant put in place.

Consider putting up no parking signs as part of the plan.

Director of Community Recreation and Education (1:23:01) – Bob & Keith have been participating in interviews for the new position. We will be entering into a 2nd round of interviews and have two final candidates. Anyone from the Board can participate.

Program Updates

- Beach Operations (Michelle) (1:26:21)

- o Beach Program Plans/Status: Michelle is getting so many compliments for the new staff. Michelle asked to have 3 lifeguards on duty

- Had public comment in support of additional lifeguards.

- Decision to put up no Parking signs and will be towed on Pond Road.
 - Reported a staffing issue for the next few weeks with 9 staff going on vacation. Talked about the idea of putting up signs indicating that the Beach was Swim at your own Risk when unable to staff with adequate lifeguards.
 - Close access to the water while swimming lessons are going on.
 - The Beach spend down has been successful.
 - Figure out how to let the public know.
 - The Boats that were purchased are still stuck in Portugal.
 - Michelle to determine what she wants to do with respect to the shifts.
 - Michelle decided to shut down until after the 4th of July.

- Fields (Keith) (1:52:07)

- o Fields and Commons spend down has been successful.

- We're going to close Upper Depot for the Summer and Fall.

- Requested Bob to change reservations of the fields as of July 1st to change the fee to \$0.

- Keith would like to do deep tine aeration on Charlie Waite, Harvard Park and Upper Depot.

- Track, Commons, Other (Mark/all) (1:58:45)

- o Apron crack repair – Received a coat New England Seal Coating - \$1550 with an additional \$252 to address the perimeter around the fencing. Want to visit the Finance committee about unforeseen expenses to pay for the fixing of these cracks rather than using our maintenance budget.

- No update on the trail.

- Mark is taking care of a cleat on the flag pole on Ryan Land.

Event Requests and New Business –

- Request to put up signs that the Tennis Courts will be used for lessons.
- Request to add the Tennis Courts to the CivicRec reservation system along with QR code signs on the fence outside the courts.
- Eagle Scout paperwork has been signed by Keith for the Bat Houses and Benches.

Action for the Commissioners is to review the Pump Track rules and Construction Considerations and let Roger know if we want to amend or add anything.

This was Doug Thorton's final meeting with Parks & Rec. The other Commissioners thanked him for his service.

Adjourn (2:20:15)

Next Meeting: July 5th